

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 258264

14
ORIGIN SSO-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O: CASEY
APPROVED BY S/S-O: PERITO
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
1 COPY FOR S/S-O

----- 121914

O 190958Z OCT 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO JCS IMMEDIATE
SECDEF IMMEDIATE
CIA IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 258264

EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SYRIA

A. CHANGES IN TOP MILITARY COMMAND

A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY OF GENERAL SHIHABI HAS INFORMED EM-BASSY DAMASCUS THAT THE GENERAL HAS BEEN STRIPPED OF HIS AUTHORITY AS SYRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF BECAUSE OF HIS DISSENT ON SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON. HE IS BEING KEPT ON AS A FIGUREHEAD FOR INTERNAL REASONS AND TO MINIMIZE ANY DISRUPTION OF SYRIAN EFFORTS IN LEBANON. BRIGADIER ALI DUBA, THE ALAWITE CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, NOW MAKES ALL DECISIONS AND HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING MILITARY OPERATIONS. DEFENSE MINISTER TLAS, REPORTEDLY LITTLE MORE THAN A "SPEECHMAKER" SINCE HIS POLITICAL ECLIPSE, IS NOT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 258264

CONNECTED WITH LEBANESE EVENTS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: PRESIDENT ASAD APPEARS TO ORCHESTRATE LEBANESE POLICY THROUGH A CORE GROUP OF TRUSTED OFFICERS, HEADED BY DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER NAJI JAMIL, WHO, AS AIR FORCE COMMANDER AND THE ONLY NON-ALAWITE IN THE GROUP, WIELDS THE MOST POWER.

B. SYRIA IS BROKE

SYRIAN MINISTER OF ECONOMY IMADI TOLD AMBASSADOR MURPHY THE LEBANESE CRISIS HAS BANKRUPTED THE SYRIAN ECONOMY BECAUSE OF:

--AN EXPENDITURE THIS YEAR OF OVER TEN BILLION SYRIAN POUNDS;

--THE WITHHOLDING OF SAUDI AND OTHER PENINSULAR STATES' ASSISTANCE; AND

--SOVIET DEMANDS FOR CASH PAYMENT FOR GOODS AND SERVICES FORMERLY COVERED BY THE SYRIAN-SOVIET CLEARING AGREEMENT.

IMADI NOTED THAT SYRIAN POLITICIANS ARE UNWILLING TO TAKE THE UNPOPULAR COURSE OF ECONOMIC AUSTERITY AND THAT PRESIDENT ASAD, AFTER BEING TOLD THE ECONOMIC FACTS OF LIFE, DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE FULLY ABSORBED THEM.

IMADI WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN EXPLORING US EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE TO OFFSET HEAVY EXPENSES INCURRED BY SUPPORTING LEBANESE REFUGEES IN SYRIA.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE AGREE THAT INSTITUTION OF ECONOMIC AUSTERITY MEASURES AT THIS TIME COULD ADD A DANGEROUSLY HEAVY BURDEN TO THOSE ALREADY ENCUMBERING ASAD'S LEADERSHIP. (SECRET) DAMASCUS 7071 AND 7062 (EXDIS), 10/18.)

2. SOMOZA SHOPS FOR ISRAELI AIRCRAFT

HIGH RANKING NICARAGUAN AIR FORCE OFFICERS INFORMED EMBASSY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 258264

MANAGUA THAT PRESIDENT SOMOZA IS ATTEMPTING TO PURCHASE MYSTERE AND MIRAGE AIRCRAFT FROM ISRAEL. THIS IMPORTANT POLICY SHIFT APPEARS TO STEM FROM:

--THE INCREASE IN SALVADORAN AND HONDURAN JET CAPABILITY RESULTING FROM RECENT AIRCRAFT PURCHASES; AND

--SOMOZA'S BELIEF THAT THE US WILL NOT SELL HIM SIX

A-37'S, BASED ON THE DELAY HE ENCOUNTERED OVER THE M-16 RIFLE PURCHASE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: SOMOZA, WHO FEARS A SPILLOVER OF POSSIBLE HOSTILITIES BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS, IS DISTURBED BY WHAT HE PERCEIVES AS DECLINING US RESPONSIVENESS TO

LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS. DELAYS IN THE APPROVAL OF THE M-16'S AND OTHER ARMS SALES ENCOURAGE THE GON TO SEEK ALTERNATIVE SUPPLIERS LESS INTERESTED THAN THE US IN AVOIDING REGIONAL ARMS COMPETITION. (CONFIDENTIAL) MANAGUA 4883, 10/18.)

3. THE PHILIPPINES: THUMBS UP FOR MARCOS

IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUE, PRESIDENT MARCOS WILL WIN SUPPORT OF ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF THE VOTERS IN THE OCTOBER 16-17 PLEBISCITE ON EXTENDING MARTIAL LAW AND AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION. EMBASSY MANILA NOTES THE VOTING GENERALLY PROCEEDED WITHOUT INCIDENT, AND THE MOVEMENT TO BOYCOTT THE POLLS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. DESPITE THE HARD LINE TAKEN BY THE ELECTIONS COMMISSION AGAINST THE BOYCOTT, MARCOS IS UNLIKELY TO INITIATE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST SUCH PROMINENT ADVOCATES AS FORMER PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER LOPEZ, OR THE LEADERS OF THE LEGAL OPPOSITION. (CONFIDENTIAL) MANILA 16157, 10/19.)

4. ETHIOPIA SCORES SOMALI SPEECH

EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA REPORTS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE RESPONDING TO SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD'S HARD-HITTING SPEECH OF LAST WEEK.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 258264

THE ETHIOPIAN STATEMENT:

--EMPHASIZES THE NON-EXISTENCE OF A TERRITORIAL DISPUTE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA;

--ACCUSES SIAD OF DISTORTING THE TRUTH REGARDING THE ETHIOPIAN POSITION ON BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS; AND

--NOTES SOMALIA'S EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS AND INDULGENCE IN ANTI-ETHIOPIAN PROPAGANDA.

EMBASSY COMMENT: MOFA'S REACTION TO SIAD'S SPEECH WAS EXPECTED. ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY TO SIAD'S CALL FOR FACE TO FACE NEGOTIATIONS, THE STATEMENT DOES NOTE

ETHIOPIA'S PREPAREDNESS TO OPEN A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE
WITH SOMALIA, DESPITE THE LATTER'S UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDE.
(CONFIDENTIAL) ADDIS ABABA 11077, 10/18.) KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MORNING SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE258264
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: CASEY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760391-0922
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761037/aaaabfgu.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, XX
To: JCS DOD CIA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006